UNITED NATIONS YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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Editor's note

Welcome to the first issue of the *United Nations Youth Newsletter*, a creation of the youth programme of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNOV/CSDHA).

The *Newsletter*, which replaces *IYY Follow-up*, aims at promoting the tenth anniversary, in 1995, of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace (IYY) and will emphasize items relating to preparations for the anniversary at the national, regional and international levels. To be published quarterly, in English, French and Spanish, it will be distributed to national coordinating mechanisms on youth, organizations of the United Nations system and interested non-governmental youth and youth-related organizations.

Contributions, comments and reactions are invited. Please address them to the Editor, United Nations Youth Newsletter, UNOV/CSDHA, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

A highlight of IYY, which was observed in 1985, was the endorsement by the General Assembly, acting as United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year, of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. The guidelines suggest how to develop and carry out youth policies and programmes according to each country's needs and situation. They include recommendations for national, regional and international action.

IYY and its follow-up witnessed notable achievements, among them the following:

(a) Global awareness of the situation of youth was significantly increased;

(b) Many Governments established national coordinating committees on youth or similar mechanisms to develop and implement integrated national youth policies and programmes;

(c) At the national level, there has been increased advocacy of comprehensive youth policies within the context of integrated development planning;

(d) Numerous non-governmental organizations have taken concrete steps to sensitize public opinion to particular issues and concerns through research seminars, workshops etc. and have worked closely with governmental organizations to develop and implement youth projects at the grass-roots level;

(e) Inter-agency cooperation has enabled concerned United Nations agencies and bodies to develop strategies, means and items for joint action. Indeed, the United Nations has strengthened regular youth programmes, helped develop new ones, encouraged the setting up of focal points on youth, strengthened technical assistance projects in the field, and expanded information and promotion.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF IYY

Special activities

In 1995, the tenth anniversary of IYY will be the occasion for launching global activities to strengthen the youth-related component of development activities, with the cooperation of the many organizations dealing with youth issues. In this connection, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 45/103, to devote a plenary meeting at its fiftieth session to youth questions.

Also in connection with the anniversary, preparations are under way for the following:

- A world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond;

- A calendar of activities to mark the anniversary;

- A review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the objectives of IYY.

The principal objective of the world youth programme of action is to serve as a practical guide, in a global framework, for national and regional action on a long-term basis. The focus will be on identifying and elaborating existing and emerging youth issues.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/103, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond in accordance with proposals to be submitted by Member States, the United Nations and non-governmental youth organizations and in consultation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

To assist the Secretariat in elaborating the draft programme of action, an expert group meeting on youth took place at Vienna from 9 to 13 December 1991. The draft is now being circulated to Member States, concerned United Nations agencies and bodies as well as relevant non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations for review and refinement. The revised draft will be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session in 1993, for discussion by its open-ended ad hoc working group on youth.

With regard to the calendar of events, it is suggested that activities to mark the anniversary could take a number of forms, including meetings, reports, competitions, media events and cultural and educational programmes.

It is hoped that Governments will take part in all preparations for the anniversary. Their participation could include the following: (a) assessment of the situation and needs of youth in the light of changing circumstances and priorities; (b) a review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of IYY objectives; (c) elaboration of a programme of substantive and information activities to mark the tenth anniversary; and (d) development and strengthening of national youth programmes.

The role of UNOV/CSDHA

UNOV/CSDHA, as the focal point for youth matters within the United Nations system, is in the process of coordinating activities to mark the tenth anniversary, in 1995, of IYY. It will be involved in several ways:

Substantive servicing of United Nations legislative bodies

UNOV/CSDHA will continue to provide substantive services to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development. It will prepare reports of the Secretary-General to these bodies on the implementation of IYY objectives, the assessment of the situation of youth, and channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations.

Collaboration with national coordinating mechanisms on youth

UNOV/CSDHA will continue to promote the establishment and strengthening of national coordinating mechanisms on youth and to establish close working relationships with them through direct correspondence, advisory assistance and an ongoing flow of information.

Organization of and participation in meetings

UNOV/CSDHA will organize international expert and consultative meetings to facilitate the exchange of experience, the identification of obstacles and the formulation of guidelines for the development and implementation of

integrated national youth policies and programmes. It will also participate in and make substantive contributions to youth meetings and events organized by governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Advisory services to Governments

Through the Interregional Adviser on Social Policies and Development, UNOV/CSDHA will provide advisory services to Governments, at their request, to assist them in developing long-term integrated national youth policies and programmes and in securing the effective integration of such policies and programmes into national development planning.

United Nations Youth Fund

UNOV/CSDHA will continue to administer the United Nations Youth Fund, which provides support for regional and national action in the field of youth, particularly for catalytic and innovative activities of developing countries, with emphasis on least developed countries.

Research

UNOV/CSDHA will carry out global research and analyses of youth issues and encourage action-oriented research. It is finalizing a global study on the situation of youth.

Communication and cooperation with youth and youth organizations

UNOV/CSDHA seeks to strengthen channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth and youth organizations. The Youth Forum of the United Nations system, held at Vienna from 27 to 29 May 1991, brought together approximately 150 representatives of organizations in the United Nations system and of national, regional and international youth non-governmental organizations. The basic objective of the Forum was to allow an exchange of views on ways and means to strengthen existing channels of communication. UNOV/CSDHA also provides substantive and technical assistance to the Geneva Informal Meeting of International Youth Non-Governmental Organizations (GIM) and the Vienna NGO Committee on Youth.

Information and promotional activities

The information and promotional activities of UNOV/CSDHA fall into several categories:

(a) Publicizing existing and emerging issues of concern to youth and developing relevant policy guidelines;

(b) Preparing and updating various directories, such as the directory of national coordinating mechanisms on youth, the directory of centres and institutes engaged in youth research, and lists of national, regional and international youth organizations;

(c) Publishing the *Youth Information Bulletin*, issued three times a year, and the *United Nations Youth Newsletter*, issued quarterly, both of them in English, French and Spanish.

UNOV/CSDHA is the coordinator of the informal inter-agency working group at the technical level on youth. Up to 1995, this group will focus predominantly on preparations for commemorating the tenth anniversary of IYY.

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